

issues - eeoicp

The Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program

Bethlehem Steel Site Profile Review

A working group of the Advisory Board will meet Thursday, October 6th in Cincinnati, Ohio to begin working on remaining issues associated with the Bethlehem Steel Site Profile. The group will address other issues, including the Savannah River Site Profile, in advance of the Board's next meeting on October 17-19 in Knoxville, TN. This meeting is open to the public, but without a public comment period.

You may also call in at 888-791-2131 using the passcode 38215.

For more information on this meeting, please [click here](#).

Beginning in the early 1940s, the Department of Energy (DoE) and its predecessors, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Manhattan Engineering District, relied upon hundreds of private-sector factories and laboratories to develop, test, and produce atomic weapons for use by the military. During the atomic weapons production process, these facilities became contaminated with radioactive materials. The EEOICP Act provides compensation and medical benefits these employees.

Part B of the EEOICP Act provides a lump sum of up to \$150,000 to qualified claimants, and some survivors of deceased workers, who worked at a covered DoE, Atomic Weapons, or Beryllium Vendor facility and developed a radiogenic cancer, beryllium disease, or silicosis.

Part E provides benefits to contractors and subcontractors who worked at covered DOE facilities where atomic weapons were produced and have an occupational illness as a result of exposure to toxic substances. Under part E, compensation varies. Survivors of deceased employees are eligible to receive compensation if they can prove the death was linked to exposure to toxic material at their place of employment.

In and around the 28th District of New York there are 10 sites that qualify under the EEOICP.

- Ashland Oil, Tonawanda
- Bethlehem Steel, Lackawanna
- Bliss & Laughlin Steel, Buffalo
- Carborundum Company, Niagara Falls
- Hooker Electrochemical, Niagara Falls
- Lake Ontario Ordnance Work, Niagara Falls
- Linde Air Products, Buffalo

- Linde Ceramics Plant, Tonawanda
- Titanium Alloys Manufacturing, Niagara Falls
- University of Rochester Atomic Energy Project, Rochester

For more information, please check out these important links or visit the Western New York Resource Center:

EEOICP

Western New York Resource Center

6000 N. Bailey, Suite 2A (the corner of Bailey and Maple)

Amherst, NY 14226-5102

Hours from 8:30-5 M-F

- EEOICP at Department of Energy
- Finding facilities
- EEOICP at Department of Labor
- Part E FAQs

Congresswoman Slaughter's Efforts:

- In the 108th Congress, Rep. Slaughter introduced an amendment to H.R. 4200, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, which passed and was signed into law. This amendment allows individuals to apply for benefits under the EEOICP Act if they developed covered illnesses and worked at facilities that the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has found the potential for significant residual contamination.

- Additionally, this amendment requires NIOSH to update the residual contamination report in 2005, 2006, and 2007 for sites where NIOSH has indicated it lacked sufficient information to reach conclusions.

- Rep. Slaughter also introduced H.R. 3864, the Residual Radioactive Contamination Compensation Act. This bill would expand the eligibility criteria of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act based on the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's Residual Contamination report, released in November 2003. Additionally, it would require follow-up reports at sites where NIOSH did not have sufficient information to reach conclusions (such as Seaways, Simond Saw, and Titanium Alloys). Below is a list of facilities where the dates of coverage would be expanded.

Ashland Oil, Tonawanda, NY 1944-1998

Bethlehem Steel, Lackawanna, NY 1949-

Bliss and Laughlin, Buffalo, NY 1948-1998

Linde Ceramics Plant, Tonawanda, NY 1940-1997

West Valley Demonstration Project, West Valley, NY 1966-2003

Part of this bill was incorporated into H.R. 4200, as the amendment described above.

- Rep. Slaughter was an original cosponsor of H.R. 1758, the Reform of Energy Workers Compensation Act in the 108th Congress. Introduced by Rep. Strickland, this bill would reform and improve the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA). The bill was not considered on the House floor.

- The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act was passed in October 2000, as part of H.R. 4205, the Defense Authorization bill. It included a Subtitle D which authorizes DOE to provide assistance to DOE contractor employees filing state worker compensation claims for illnesses arising out of exposure to toxic substances and other hazardous materials at a covered DOE facility. (toxic substances = heavy metals, solvents, acids, etc.) Congresswoman Slaughter voted for the bill.